



## ***MEDIA ADVISORY***

May 20, 2004

### **Judge Corinna Harn will serve as Presiding Judge for King County District Court**

King County District Court Judge Corinna Harn was unanimously elected Chief Presiding Judge of the District Court by her fellow judges. She will oversee case management, personnel, operations and issues faced by the 23 judges and seven courthouse locations of the District Court.

Judge Harn states that her goals for the court include “promoting efficient and effective access to justice while maintaining the high level of service being provided to the citizens of King County by the District Court; improving the levels of service where possible, and facilitating communication and cooperation between the various criminal justice agencies in King County.”

The role of Presiding Judge was clearly defined and strengthened in 2001 by a task force of statewide justice officials, who recognized that strong judicial leadership is critical to maintaining effective courts. Presiding judges are given authority to oversee all court functions, and receive training and time to do the work.

Judge Harn joined the bench in 1996, when she was appointed Judge of the Renton Municipal Court. She was elected to the King County District Court, Southwest, in 1998 and again in 2002. She has served nearly two years as Assistant Chief Presiding Judge. Judge Harn graduated from Whitman College with a degree in political science, then the University of Puget Sound School of Law, and practiced law from 1984 to 1996 before joining the bench. She began her district court career more than 20 years ago as a court clerk at the Benton County District Court in Richland, Washington.

Judge Harn will be assisted by King County District Court Judge Barbara Linde who was unanimously elected Assistant Chief Presiding Judge of the District Court by her fellow judges. She will assist in the management of the District Court and serve as a steering committee member for the Operational and Facilities Master Planning effort being undertaken for the court over the next 7 months.

Judge Barbara Linde serves as a Judge in the West Division, Seattle Courthouse and was elected to the position of District Court Judge in 1994. She is a 1977 graduate of the University of Washington and a 1980 graduate of the Seattle University School of Law.

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